

Antimicrobial resistance: Total antibiotic consumption moves to the NHS Standard contract for 2019/20

Frequently asked questions

February 2019

We answer common questions about the transfer of the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) total antibiotic consumption indicator and associated reduction target to the [NHS Standard Contract for 2019/20](#).

If you have any questions that are not answered below, please contact either:

- CQUIN@phe.gov.uk – for any queries relating to submission, analysis or publication of data
- e.cquin@nhs.net – for all other queries.

What does the standard contract require?

Trusts are required to reduce total antibiotic consumption by 1% from their calendar year 2018 baseline. The baselines and targets for individual trusts can be found on the [NHS Improvement website](#).

Why have the carbapenem and access category indicators been removed?

There is an ongoing commitment to reduce inappropriate prescribing. *Tackling antimicrobial resistance 2019-2024*, the UK's five-year national action plan aims to reduce antibiotic

consumption in humans by 15% by 2024, including a 10% reduction in the use of ‘reserve’ and ‘watch’ antibiotics.

However, the Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) indicators needed to be simplified to help trusts meet all the CQUIN targets. To this end, the consumption indicators have been removed to allow trusts to focus on using quality improvement methodology to increase appropriate prescribing for lower urinary tract infections (UTIs) and surgical prophylaxis in elective colorectal surgery.

Submission of total antibiotic consumption to Public Health England (PHE) remains a requirement but is now part of the NHS Standard Contract (see below for further details). Commissioners have written guidance on this change. The data will continue to be published on PHE Fingertips. As part of general antimicrobial stewardship activities, trusts need to continue to monitor their carbapenem and Access indicators which will continue to be published on PHE Fingertips.

Is there an AMR CQUIN scheme in 2019/20?

The [NHS England CQUIN scheme 2019/20](#) includes two AMR indicators intended to improve the management of infection and associated antibiotic prescribing:

- CCG1a: Antimicrobial Resistance – Lower Urinary Tract Infections in Older People
- CCG1b: Antimicrobial Resistance – Antibiotic Prophylaxis in Colorectal Surgery

Will the updated World Health Organization (WHO) defined daily dose (DDD) values be used for the total antibiotic consumption indicator?

In January 2019, the WHO changed the defined daily dose (DDD) values for ampicillin, amoxicillin, cefepime, co-amoxiclav, colistin, meropenem, ciprofloxacin and temocillin.

From 1 April 2019 these values will be used for the updated total antibiotic consumption indicator in the NHS Standard Contract. This will be reflected on PHE Fingertips when Q1 2019/20 consumption data is published in early October 2019 and previous data will be adjusted accordingly.

How should total antibiotic consumption data be submitted?

In January 2019, it was announced that NHS Improvement would fund [Rx-Info](#) licences for NHS Acute Trusts for a period of 2 years. All NHS acute trusts signed a data sharing agreement in 2014 giving consent for the release of antimicrobial consumption data from IMS Health (now IQVIA) and Rx-Info to PHE [1]. Therefore, to reduce the burden of data submission for the NHS Standard Contract, PHE will receive antibiotic consumption data for all NHS acute trusts directly from Rx-Info. This will fulfil the NHS Standard Contract requirement for NHS Acute Trusts to submit antibiotic consumption data to PHE.

An initial validation conducted by PHE in 2015 highlighted discrepancies between data from Rx-Info and trust pharmacy systems. This led to the request for Trusts to submit data directly to PHE for the 2016/17 and 2017/19 CQUINs. Further validation work comparing 2017 CQUIN data to Rx-Info is being performed to better understand any remaining differences.

Please note: If a Trust wishes to continue to submit their data directly to PHE, they may do so using the updated antibiotic consumption data submission spreadsheet available on the [NHS Improvement website](#).

Antibiotic consumption data submitted to PHE needs to consist of dispensed items to:

- inpatients
- ambulatory care outpatients
- day cases
- emergency departments
- pre-packs
- outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy
- centralised intravenous additive service
- dialysis satellite units
- other satellite units attached to the trust

It should exclude:

- FP10HP
- tuberculosis drugs
- anti-parasitic drugs
- topical antibiotics
- antibiotics supplied to another trust

Full inclusions and exclusions can be found in the data collection instructions tab within the data submission spreadsheet.

Antibiotic consumption data can be submitted to PHE by emailing the spreadsheet to CQUIN@phe.gov.uk. Make sure you follow the instructions for naming the spreadsheet before submitting data to PHE. Please ensure you have completed the required adjustment calculations for all oral liquid antibiotics and volumes of liquid ampoules.

Can we amend the total antibiotic consumption spreadsheet if data is missing?

The antibiotic data collection spreadsheet should not be amended. Please e-mail CQUIN@phe.gov.uk if additional antibiotics were dispensed.

When should we submit data?

If a Trust intends to submit consumption data directly to PHE this should be submitted as soon as possible after the end of each quarter and no later than the end of the month following the end of the quarter:

- Q1 2019/20 – 31 July 2019
- Q2 2019/20 – 31 October 2019
- Q3 2019/20 – 31 January 2020
- Q4 2019/20 – 30 April 2020.

How is admissions data calculated?

Indicators will be published to support reporting of the NHS Standard Contract antibiotic consumption data as a rate of DDDs per 1,000 admissions. These rates are calculated using admissions data from the same financial year as the antibiotic consumption data.

Admissions data is extracted from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES); please refer to the [summary HES data webpage](#) for the most recent openly published data (2017/18).

PHE can access preliminary (non-published) admissions data for 2018/19 to the present from HES in advance of publication of final data. This provisional admissions data is subject to change and will be updated on a quarterly basis and as final data becomes openly available.

The HES admissions method counts the number of admission episodes finishing within a financial year. Note this includes patients who were admitted in previous years (that is, before 1 April of the financial year). So each quarter contains the number of admission

episodes that finished in that quarter, regardless of when they started. Records are included if:

- patient classification = ordinary admission, day case admission or mothers and babies using only delivery facilities (that is, not included if a patient is a regular day attender, regular night attender or entry was not applicable)
- finished episode
- first episode in spell.

How can we monitor progress?

All data submitted to PHE will be available on the [PHE Fingertips data portal](#).

Antibiotic consumption indicators of relevance to the Standard Contract will be found in the 'supporting NHS England initiatives' and antibiotic prescribing domains under the acute trusts area type from early October 2019.

Data will be released as follows:

- Q1 2019/20 – early October 2019
- Q2 2019/20 – early January 2020
- Q3 2019/20 – early April 2020
- Q4 2019/20 – early July 2020.

Our data differs from the published data. What should we do?

When investigating potential differences between rates of antibiotic consumption published on Fingertips and your own local data, a good first step is to check whether it is the DDD count and/or the value (rate) that differs. This can tell us whether the difference stems from the DDD count or the admissions figure. If you wish to query DDD data specifically please contact Rx-Info (info@rx-info.co.uk) unless submitting data directly to PHE. If you wish to query any other data, please email CQUIN@phe.gov.uk

Reference:

[1]: Public Health England, English surveillance programme for antimicrobial utilisation and resistance (ESPAUR) Report 2014 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/362374/ESPAUR_Report_2014__3_.pdf

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